



Testimony

Submitted by Cale Bradford, Chief Government Relations Officer

Public Health Committee –Public Hearing

March 29, 2021

SUPPORT: SB 1070 AN ACT ALLOWING ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS TO ISSUE HOME HEALTH ORDERS.

Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg and members of the Public Health Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Cale Bradford and I'm the Chief Government Relations Officer for Elara Caring.

Elara Caring is one of the Nation's largest providers of home and community based health services, providing home health, personal care, behavioral health, and hospice assistance for 60,000 beneficiaries daily in 16 states. In Connecticut, we provide behavioral home health services state-wide and have historically been known as New England Home Care.

Elara Caring would like to express its support for SB1070, An Act Allowing APRNs and PAs to Issue Home Health Orders. In March of 2020, the CARES Act included permanent allowances for both APRNs and PAs to sign home health orders and to determine home health eligibility for coverage. This was a change to historical federal policy and served to recognize the prevalence and importance of APRN and PA in the contemporary healthcare arena, and necessity of these discipline to facilitate timely access and services oversight during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Outside the confines of the Department of Public Health Commissioner's currently declared Public Health Emergency, Connecticut does not permit APRNs or PAs to sign home health orders or determine home health eligibility. Respectfully, this is an antiquated policy that fails to recognize the consequential role these disciplines fulfill in treating patients and coordinating care in the modern medical practice. This is especially true within the behavioral home health patient population served by providers like Elara Caring.

Accordingly, Elara Caring would like to respectfully request the Public Health Committee advance SB1070 and to ensure that PAs and APRNs may permanently be permitted to sign home health orders and determine home health eligibility in Connecticut.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of SB1070 1070 today. If we at Elara Caring may further assist your consideration of this bill, we are available per your convenience.

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